

I am writing you to kill a bill that has been created, not by my neighbors, not by residents of historic districts, not even by elected representatives of people in historic districts.....but rather by people who have absolutely no stake within historic districts, no constituents within historic districts, and apparently no understanding of the benefits of these districts.

The proposed bill seeks to destabilize and wipe away forty plus years of proven economic development, urban placemaking, and neighborhood stabilization under the false mantras of government transparency and alleged property rights.

Even more alarming, this legislation has been quickly and haphazardly introduced to committee with very little transparency and almost certainly no study of its economic impact on our state's urban centers.

And again, in a twist of irony, it grandstands to promote more transparency!

In short, this modernization bill is not modern at all, but regressive and anti-city. It is a sad indictment of our state's leadership in regards to supporting our cities and many of the folks who live in our cities.

This bill is the usurpation of my property rights, by people who do not represent me, nor my interests. For that I am also very disappointed.

Finally, throughout Governor Rick Snyder's tenure, the state has developed policy for, and invested in, what has been termed placemaking. There has been robust collaboration between MSDHA, MEDC, the Michigan Municipal League, and even MDOT to reframe and re-envision our state's cities, towns, and villages into thriving, vibrant, and livable places. In this ongoing "reinvention of Michigan" the Governor even went as far as to name what was termed a "placemaking czar" to his executive committee, in order to foster the creation of sense of place within the state.

Well, ladies and gentlemen, the last bit of irony in all of this is that while the state allegedly wants to build great places and establish a unique sense of place – this proposed bill seems decidedly to seek a vastly different direction by wiping away the original placemaking legislation.

Again, I emphatically urge you to kill this bill. For the sake of place, placemaking, cities, and property rights.

Thank you

Mark F. Miller AIA AICP  
566 Morris Ave SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503